

Remarks

The examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Partridge et al.

A. Partridge Does not Anticipate Applicants' Invention

Claims 1, 2, 6, 19, 20, and 24 have been amended to refer to a “removable module” and clarify that the module disclosed in the present application is separate and distinct from the switch. For instance, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “wherein the removable module is external to the switch.” This amendment was made to clarify that the module is separate and distinct from the switch and can be added to or removed from the switch. The examiner relies on the first paragraph of page 243 in Partridge as providing the disclosure for this limitation. Partridge, however, does not provide any such teaching. The cited paragraph of Partridge states: “Because of the large number of pins and packaging constraints, the switch is implemented as five identical data path cards plus one allocator card.” This sentence of Partridge makes no mention of a switch comprising a switching fabric that is operable to receive a module. This sentence of Partridge only teaches a switch implemented as five data path cards and one allocator card. The cards taught by Partridge do not connect to an existing switch comprising a switching fabric as is recited by Applicants' invention. Applicants' invention recites a switch that comprises a switching fabric and is operable to receive modules. These modules are separate and distinct from the switch and comprise the switching fabric when received by the switch. Nowhere in Partridge is such a switch taught.

Furthermore, claim 1 recites that the “the module comprises at least a portion of the switching fabric.” This limitation is also not taught by the passage of Partridge cited in the Office Action. The examination cites to Figure 1 of Partridge as disclosing this limitation,

stating “see Fig. 1 for connections of line cards, switch cards.” Figure 1 of Partridge does not disclose a module comprising at least a portion of the switching fabric. Figure 1 of Partridge is shown below:

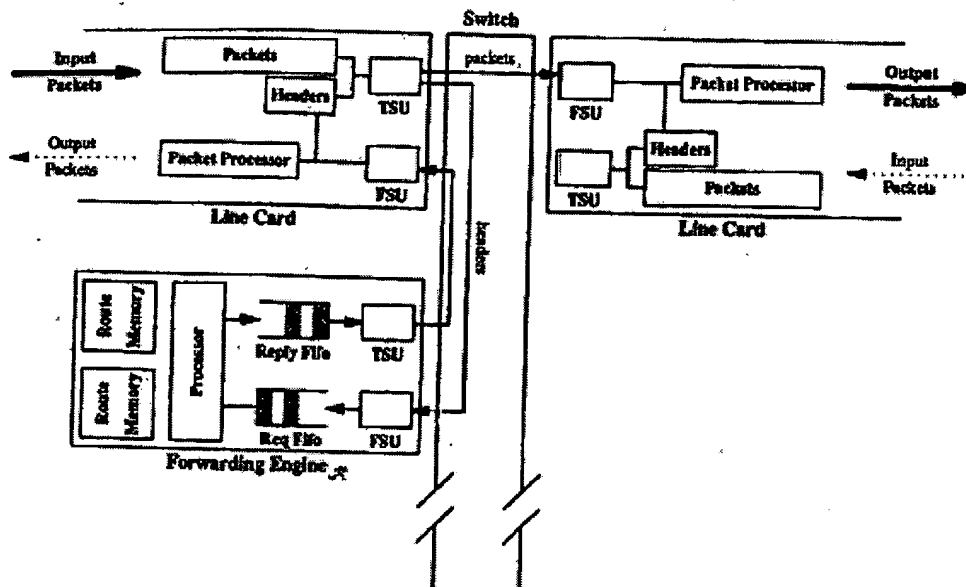


Fig. 1 of Partridge illustrates an MGR design. The line cards shown in Fig. 1 of Partridge are interface cards to network lines. They do not comprise at least a portion of the switching fabric. Partridge itself states that the line cards are network cards that plug into “a high-speed switch” stating: “The MGR consists of multiple line cards (*each supporting one or more network interfaces*) and forwarding engine cards, all plugged into *a* high-speed switch.” Partridge at 238 (emphasis added). Thus, Partridge does not teach that the line cards shown in Fig. 1 comprise a switch. Instead, Partridge plainly discloses that the line cards actually plug into a switch and are not the switch itself.

The same analysis applies with respect to independent claim 19 which has also been amended to clarify that the module is “removable” and is “external” to the switch and is

therefore, separate and distinct from it. For the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, Partridge also does not anticipate independent claim 19. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 and 19 be withdrawn and these claims be passed to issuance.

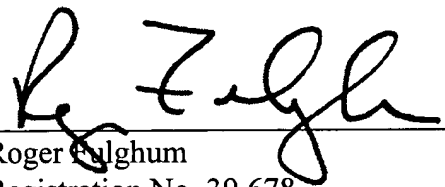
B. Dependent Claims 2-6 and 20-24

Dependent claims 2-6 and 20-24 will not be discussed individually herein, as each of these dependent claims depends, either directly or indirectly, from an otherwise allowable base claim.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-6 and 19-24 of the present invention are allowable. The Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn and that these claims be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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